**First Presbyterian Church, Tucumcari**

The Church With the Holy Spirit Window

**Sunday, December 13, 2020 Third Sunday of Advent**

**Rev. Amy Pospichal, Pastor Accompanist, Marjorie McKenzie**

**Hymns:**

**RH 162 Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming**

**RH 159 What Child is This**

**RH 371 Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know**

**Call to Worship**

We sing because God does marvelous things!  
**He opened salvation to all and revealed his righteousness to the world.**Make joyful noise the Lord, all the earth!  
**We join in joyous song and sing God’s praises!**It’s not only us, but the sea, the rivers, even the mountains rejoice out loud.  
**The whole cosmos sings because the Lord is coming to establish justice on earth!**

**Lighting the Candle of Joy (liturgy by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson)**

Light one candle for joy.

Because the world is broken and the wait is long,

but our joy cannot be contained.

Like a toddler, toppling the thrones of power with a gleeful swipe,

Joy pierces our silence with song

interrupts our sighing with laughter

unshackles our fumbling feet to dance.

“My soul magnifies the Lord,” she whispers,

“and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior.”

So we light one candle, because it only takes one:

Christ with us.

**Morning Prayer**

God of Creation,  
all of the world proclaims your praise,  
from the highest heavens to the deepest recesses of the sea.  
Make our voices true and faithful  
as we join the voices of all of creation to sing your praise. **Amen**.

**Call to Confession**

Sometimes we must let go of our nets in order to follow Jesus.  
Let us confess our reluctance to follow,  
and examine what we must let go of in order to follow Jesus.

**Prayer of Confession**

**We confess that we do not often know what to confess, O Lord. We are so consumed by our own projects that we don’t always hear your voice. We know that you speak through the suffering of others, the curiosity of one who needs to know they are not alone, and the opportunity to demonstrate love and forgiveness. Help us, Lord, to know our faults and turn from them. Hear us now, even as we confess our own unwillingness to hear you.**  
*(silent prayer)*  
Thank you, Lord, for hearing our prayers.  
**Guide us in the true way of life as we follow you today. Amen.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Sing with joy to the Lord,  
because our righteous Judge  
is our loving Redeemer.  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Psalm 126:1-6**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
**we were like those who dream.**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
**and our tongue with shouts of joy;**then it was said among the nations,  
**“The Lord has done great things for them.”**The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
**like the watercourses in the Negeb.**May those who sow in tears  
**reap with shouts of joy.**Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
**shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.**

**Prayers of the People**

O Lord our rock, our hearts rejoice in you.  
Holy One, our strength rises up  
with joy in your deliverance!  
You know our every action,  
and you lift up those who stumble.

We pray that your peace would shatter the weapons of war,  
that your justice would humble those who fill themselves to overflowing,  
that those who are starving now would find food in abundance.  
We pray for lives that feel barren,  
for hearts that are bereaved,  
for all who are trapped by the power of death.  
We pray for these dear ones who are close to our hearts…

You, Lord, turn death into life.  
You, Lord, turn poverty into wealth  
and tear down the unjust wealth that drives others into poverty.  
When the world sweeps away those who are poor like dust  
and tosses out those in need as if they were garbage,  
you lift them up and restore them to honor.

We especially name before you:

Tom Anderson’s Family, particularly Jean, preparing for services for him tomorrow

Dora Maes’ family in their grief

Emily Priddy and Ron Warnick, both getting over COVID

Anna Morris, in her stage 4 cancer/hospice care

For our community and state leaders, that we find social and economic stability during the pandemic

For travelers, particularly those heading for the holidays

For the healing of our nation

Betty Faye Ragan at the loss of her

Trey and Nicole Schuster – getting over COVID

For Ryan’s grandpa, Francis

For Phil Gallegos, Kathy Martinez, Tess and Jonathan,

Our schools, teachers and students, as well as all of their families

Travelers

For your very own peace and justice to reign in our hearts and wherever we go

You who established the pillars of the earth,  
guard our hearts and guide our feet,  
so we might be now and ever faithful  
to your world-transforming covenant faithfulness.  
We pray in Jesus’ name,  
who prays with us as we seek your kingdom…

*The Lord’s Prayer*

**Presentation of Offering and Offertory**

**Time out for Teaching: “A Time for Rejoicing”**

Today, John’s gospel tells us about John the Baptist. There is a timeless quality about it, as John the Baptist seems to show up out of nowhere. But John’s version of the story is almost more “dreamlike,” in the sense that the witness he brings, about the light, also seems to emerge from the coming light, as if cast forward, ahead of the light.

When John is questioned as to whether he is the Messiah, we don’t know who is asking the questions, but his answers are clear. “I am not the Messiah.” When asked if Elijah, he answers, “I am not.” Then he says, “I am…the voice crying in the wilderness…” “I am not worthy to untie…his sandals.”

The words “I am” turn out to be important words throughout the gospel according to John. Most of the time in John, Jesus is the one to use those words the most. Jesus says “I am” just under 100 times in the gospel of John. Can you think of some of his great “I am” sayings?

How is what Jesus says about himself “good news?”

How do you find ways to rejoice during this time of year?

**Prayer for Illumination**

Come, Spirit of the Lord, and speak through us.  
Send your Holy Word to be upon our tongues  
and your gospel upon our hearts.  
Speak to us, speak through us, speak among us,  
for we, your servants, are listening.  **Amen.**

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

1   The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
          because the LORD has anointed me;  
     he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
          to bind up the brokenhearted,  
     to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
          and release to the prisoners;  
2   to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,  
          and the day of vengeance of our God;  
          to comfort all who mourn;  
3   to provide for those who mourn in Zion —  
          to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
     the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
          the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
     They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
          the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
4   They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
          they shall raise up the former devastations;  
     they shall repair the ruined cities,  
          the devastations of many generations.

8   For I the LORD love justice,  
          I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
     I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
          and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
9   Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
          and their offspring among the peoples;  
     all who see them shall acknowledge  
          that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
10  I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
          my whole being shall exult in my God;  
     for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
          he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
     as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
          and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
11  For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
          and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
     so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
          to spring up before all the nations.

**Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28**

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

19This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” 21And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” 22Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23He said,  
     “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
          ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” 26John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” 28This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**Second Reading Luke 1:46b-55**

46b My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47       and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48  for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
          Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
49  for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
          and holy is his name.  
50  His mercy is for those who fear him  
          from generation to generation.  
51  He has shown strength with his arm;  
          he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
52  He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
          and lifted up the lowly;  
53  he has filled the hungry with good things,  
          and sent the rich away empty.  
54  He has helped his servant Israel,  
          in remembrance of his mercy,  
55  according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
          to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

**Sermon: “Mary’s Song” Rev. Amy Pospichal**

One of my all time favorite TV shows, was called “Whose Line is it Anyway?” a TV show where “everything is made up and the points don’t count.” “Whose Line is it Anyway?” pretends to be a game show, but is really meant to entertain us with improv acting, usually with hilarious situations.

Part of what I enjoy about this show is that the actors are obviously friends who have done this thing for many years. They truly enjoy acting together, and how they do it without bursting into laughter is beyond me! The entire show is about levity and fun. It’s interesting to see them given situations and roles which they have to make up right on the spot. You never know what could happen. Something could get broken. Someone could draw a blank on what they wanted to say or do and they have to act through it all. Whatever they do, the show has always been an antidote for me whenever I feel a little bit gloomy.

One of the first and most important rules of improv is the “yes and” rule. Also known as “Don’t deny.” It means that if you are acting with a partner and your partner says that you both are pirates, then you cannot deny it or change it. You have to go with it, not only saying “yes,” but building on the storyline. Doing this requires a certain amount of trust in each other, as well as a preparedness to just have fun. The other rule is the “positivity rule,” which means you can improvise much better a scene if it starts on a positive note, because the potential for entertainment is much longer-lasting than if it starts with something negative. So, say “yes and,” trust your partner and remain positive.

Those who do it well seem to be rather fearless of where a scene might go. If they are nervous, it is hard to tell. For there is fun and joy involved, a playful attitude gets you far when you have to improvise. We have to be ready to laugh, even maybe break into song.

Sounds like good survival skills for life. Our ability to take a challenge and say “Yes and?” could help us survive the harder chapters of our lives, intact. And this is really how Mary answers, before breaking into song herself, in our reading from Luke today.

To me, on this Sunday when we remember the joy of Mary, I just cannot imagine how I could possibly rejoice if I didn’t have a sense of humor. We all have our bad days, when we feel totally unprepared to receive bad news. But looking to Mary, mother of our Lord, she rejoices when she finds she will bear the Messiah. She must have been floored by the news. She might have had a mixed feeling – a bit of fear combined with the hope for Israel. She improvises, for who could be prepared for such a role? She answers, “Yes and…”: “Let it be unto me as you have said.” She accepts that role by saying yes, and she becomes a partner in God’s plans to deliver our savior. She saw the challenge positively and trusted the words of the angel, in order to say “Let it be…” to this most wonderful news. Then, she breaks into song!

Our preparedness to say “Yes and…” to God can lead us to greater joy. And when the joy of our Savior is handed to us, no strings attached, we have to be rather prepared to receive Him, even if we might also have a little bit of fear. Joy isn’t always about jumping up and down and making a lot of noise either. There are the quiet joys. The kinds that we tuck away in our memories like photographs. The joy of Mary would continue as Jesus grew. I can remember moments in Luke when Mary witnessed his miraculous moments as a little boy, and she would tuck those ideas away in her heart.

Some say it was unfair of God to do this without giving her a choice. We see nothing there where she is asked to give her consent. However, Mary is bold enough to step forward and accept the opportunity. And of her own volition, she chooses to say yes, to improvise with God, and discover what sort of journey God is charting.

Mary was as prepared as anyone could be to receive the news of great joy, even if she had a little fear. She faced the possible end of life as she knew it. The risk of being not yet married, but pregnant was serious. Joseph had every right to break things off with her. She might not be able to find another husband. She was also very young. But even still, she stepped into what she did not know and said, “Yes” to the role of a lifetime.

We are never ready for everything at all times. But we can be ready to rejoice, say yes to God, and find out where God is taking us. Improv is scary. But just start by saying, “Yes, and…?” Maybe even have some emergency confetti in our pockets and a song on our lips.

I read a cute story the other day, a dialogue between a mother and her son as they drove in the car. Her 8-year-old boy says, “Do you want me to throw the confetti in my pocket?” She answers, “No, not in the car! Why do you have confetti in your pocket?” He answers, “It’s my emergency confetti. I carry it everywhere in case there is good news.” Sounds like a good idea, in my opinion, to be ready for good news. For if we are ready for good news, then good news shall surely find us. Or, if not emergency confetti, an emergency praise song.

So, just say “yes” and go with God’s suggestions, knowing they are always going to be positive. Be prepared for God’s good news that is coming, and be ready to celebrate. Be it a quiet joy or a loud one. Be there confetti, song, or just having fun in a way that reflects the freedom we have in our Savior. Plus, it’s good for our immune system. God bless you and keep you today, filled with Christmas Joy. Amen.

**THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**Social Distancing and Personal Protection.** Please respect one another’s space, observing the 6-foot distancing between one another. Please remember to wash your hands on the way out today. If you need a protective face covering, please notify the pastor and she can help you.

Jn 4:26: Then Jesus declared, “**I**, the one speaking to you—**I** **am** he.”

[John 6:35](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A35&version=NIV) Then Jesus declared, “**I** **am** the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes **i**n me will never be thirsty.

[John 6:41](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A41&version=NIV) At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “**I** **am** the bread that came down from heaven.”

[John 6:48](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A48&version=NIV) **I** **am** the bread of life.

J[ohn 6:51](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%206%3A51&version=NIV) **I** **am** the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread **i**s my flesh, which **I** will give for the life of the world.”

[John 7:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%207%3A28&version=NIV), 29 Then Jesus, still teaching **i**n the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where **I** **am** from. **I** **am** not here on my own authority, but he who sent me **i**s true. You do not know him, but **I** know him because **I** **am** from him and he sent me.”

[John 8:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A12&version=NIV) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “**I** **am** the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk **i**n darkness, but will have the light of life.”

[John 8:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A18&version=NIV) **I** **am** one who testifies for myself; my other witness **i**s the Father, who sent me.”

[John 8:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A23&version=NIV) But he continued, “You are from below; **I** **am** from above. You are of this world; **I** **am** not of this world.

[John 8:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A24&version=NIV) **I** told you that you would die **i**n your sins; **i**f you do not believe that **I** **am** he, you will **i**ndeed die **i**n your sins.”

[John 8:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A28&version=NIV) So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I** **am** he and that **I** do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

[John 8:58](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A58&version=NIV) “Very truly **I** tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, **I** **am**!”

[John 9:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%209%3A5&version=NIV) (about his location and his identity) While **I** **am** **i**n the world, **I** **am** the light of the world.”

[John 9:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%209%3A9&version=NIV) Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself **i**nsisted, “**I** **am** the man.”

[John 10:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A7&version=NIV) Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly **I** tell you, **I** **am** the gate for the sheep.

[John 10:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A9&version=NIV) **I** **am** the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come **i**n and go out, and find pasture.

[John 10:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A11&version=NIV) “**I** **am** the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

[John 10:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A14&version=NIV) “**I** **am** the good shepherd; **I** know my sheep and my sheep know me—

[John 10:36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A36&version=NIV) what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent **i**nto the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because **I** said, ‘**I** **am** God’s Son’?

[John 11:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2011%3A25&version=NIV) Jesus said to her, “**I** **am** the resurrection and the life. The one who believes **i**n me will live, even though they die;

[John 13:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013%3A13&version=NIV) “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that **i**s what **I** **am**.

[John 13:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013%3A19&version=NIV) “**I** **am** telling you now before **i**t happens, so that when **i**t does happen you will believe that **I** **am** who **I** **am**.

[John 14:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A6&version=NIV) Jesus answered, “**I** **am** the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

[John 15:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2015%3A1&version=NIV) “**I** **am** the true vine, and my Father **i**s the gardener.

[John 15:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2015%3A5&version=NIV) “**I** **am** the vine; you are the branches. **I**f you remain **i**n me and **I** **i**n you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

[John 18:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2018%3A5&version=NIV) “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “**I** **am** he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

[John 18:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2018%3A6&version=NIV) When Jesus said, “**I** **am** he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

[John 18:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2018%3A8&version=NIV) Jesus answered, “**I** told you that **I** **am** he. **I**f you are looking for me, then let these men go.”

[John 18:37](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2018%3A37&version=NIV) “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that **I** **am** a king. **I**n fact, the reason **I** was born and came **i**nto the world **i**s to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

**Jesus Speaking about other activities or his status**

[John 5:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%205%3A17&version=NIV) **I**n his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father **i**s always at his work to this very day, and **I** too **am** working.”

[John 5:36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%205%3A36&version=NIV) “**I** have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that **I** **am** doing—testify that the Father has sent me.

[John 8:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A16&version=NIV) But **i**f **I** do judge, my decisions are true, because **I** **am** not alone. **I** stand with the Father, who sent me.

[John 8:38](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A38&version=NIV) **I** **am** telling you what **I** have seen **i**n the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.”

[John 8:46](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A46&version=NIV) Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? **I**f **I** **am** telling the truth, why don’t you believe me?

[John 8:49](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A49&version=NIV) “**I** **am** not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but **I** honor my Father and you dishonor me.

[John 11:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2011%3A15&version=NIV) and for your sake **I** **am** glad **I** was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

[John 8:50](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A50&version=NIV) **I** **am** not seeking glory for myself; but there **i**s one who seeks **i**t, and he **i**s the judge.

[John 13:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013%3A7&version=NIV) Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what **I** **am** doing, but later you will understand.”

[John 13:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013%3A18&version=NIV) “**I** **am** not referring to all of you; **I** know those **I** have chosen. But this **i**s to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’

[John 19:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2019%3A28&version=NIV) Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “**I** **am** thirsty.”

**Jesus speaking of his locational status**

[John 7:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%207%3A8&version=NIV) You go to the festival. **I** **am** not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.”

[John 7:33](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%207%3A33&version=NIV) Jesus said, “**I** **am** with you for only a short time, and then **I** **am** going to the one who sent me.

[John 7:36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%207%3A36&version=NIV) What did he mean when he said, ‘You will look for me, but you will not find me,’ and ‘Where **I** **am**, you cannot come’ ?”

[John 8:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A14&version=NIV) Jesus answered, “Even **i**f **I** testify on my own behalf, my testimony **i**s valid, for **I** know where **I** came from and where **I** **am** going. But you have no **i**dea where **I** come from or where **I** **am** going.

[John 8:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%208%3A21&version=NIV) Once more Jesus said to them, “**I** **am** going away, and you will look for me, and you will die **i**n your sin. Where **I** go, you cannot come.”

[John 9:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%209%3A5&version=NIV) (about his location and his identity) While **I** **am** **i**n the world, **I** **am** the light of the world.”

[John 11:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2011%3A11&version=NIV) After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but **I** **am** going there to wake him up.”

[John 12:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2012%3A26&version=NIV) Whoever serves me must follow me; and where **I** **am**, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

[John 12:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2012%3A32&version=NIV) And **I**, when **I** **am** lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

[John 13:33](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013%3A33&version=NIV) “My children, **I** will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as **I** told the Jews, so **I** tell you now: Where **I** **am** going, you cannot come.

[John 13:36](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013%3A36&version=NIV) Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where **I** **am** going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”

[John 14:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A2&version=NIV) My Father’s house has many rooms; **i**f that were not so, would **I** have told you that **I** **am** going there to prepare a place for you?

[John 14:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A3&version=NIV) And **i**f **I** go and prepare a place for you, **I** will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where **I** **am**.

[John 14:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A4&version=NIV) You know the way to the place where **I** **am** going.”

[John 14:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A10&version=NIV) Don’t you believe that **I** **am** **i**n the Father, and that the Father **i**s **i**n me? The words **I** say to you **I** do not speak on my own authority. Rather, **i**t **i**s the Father, living **i**n me, who **i**s doing his work.

[John 14:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A11&version=NIV) Believe me when **I** say that **I** **am** **i**n the Father and the Father **i**s **i**n me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

[John 14:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A12&version=NIV) Very truly **I** tell you, whoever believes **i**n me will do the works **I** have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because **I** **am** going to the Father.

[John 14:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A20&version=NIV) On that day you will realize that **I** **am** **i**n my Father, and you are **i**n me, and **I** **am** **i**n you.

[John 14:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A28&version=NIV) “You heard me say, ‘**I** **am** going away and **I** **am** coming back to you.’ **I**f you loved me, you would be glad that **I** **am** going to the Father, for the Father **i**s greater than **I**.

[John 16:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2016%3A5&version=NIV) but now **I** **am** going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’

[John 16:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2016%3A7&version=NIV) But very truly **I** tell you, **i**t **i**s for your good that **I** **am** going away. Unless **I** go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but **i**f **I** go, **I** will send him to you.

[John 16:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2016%3A10&version=NIV) about righteousness, because **I** **am** going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;

[John 16:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2016%3A17&version=NIV) At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘**I**n a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because **I** **am** going to the Father’ ?”

[John 16:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2016%3A26&version=NIV) **I**n that day you will ask **i**n my name. **I** **am** not saying that **I** will ask the Father on your behalf.

[John 16:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2016%3A28&version=NIV) **I** came from the Father and entered the world; now **I** **am** leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

[John 16:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2016%3A32&version=NIV) “A time **i**s coming and **i**n fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet **I** **am** not alone, for my Father **i**s with me.

[John 17:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A9&version=NIV) **I** pray for them. **I** **am** not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

[John 17:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A11&version=NIV) **I** will remain **i**n the world no longer, but they are still **i**n the world, and **I** **am** coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

[John 17:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A13&version=NIV) “**I** **am** coming to you now, but **I** say these things while **I** **am** still **i**n the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

[John 17:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A14&version=NIV) **I** have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than **I** **am** of the world.

[John 17:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A16&version=NIV) They are not of the world, even as **I** **am** not of **i**t.

[John 17:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A21&version=NIV) that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are **i**n me and **I** **am** **i**n you. May they also be **i**n us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

[John 17:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A24&version=NIV) “Father, **I** want those you have given me to be with me where **I** **am**, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

[John 20:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2020%3A17&version=NIV) Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for **I** have not yet ascended to the Father. Go **i**nstead to my brothers and tell them, ‘**I** **am** ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

[John 20:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2020%3A21&version=NIV) Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, **I** **am** sending you.”

**Not Jesus speaking**

John 1:20 “I am not the Messiah.”

John 1:21 “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.”

John 1:23      “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.

John 1:27 “…I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”

[John 3:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%203%3A28&version=NIV) You yourselves can testify that **I** said, ‘**I** **am** not the Messiah but **am** sent ahead of him.’

John 4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and **I** **am** a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

[John 5:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%205%3A7&version=NIV) “Sir,” the **i**nvalid replied, “**I** have no one to help me **i**nto the pool when the water **i**s stirred. While **I** **am** trying to get **i**n, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

[John 18:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2018%3A17&version=NIV) “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter. He replied, “**I** **am** not.”

[John 18:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2018%3A25&version=NIV) Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?” He denied **i**t, saying, “**I** **am** not.”